

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
**DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

THE MOAPA BAND OF PAIUTE INDIANS, et al.)

Plaintiff(s),

vs.

NEVADA POWER COMPANY, et al.,

Defendant(s).

Case No. 2:13-cv-01417-JAD-NJK

ORDER

Pending before the Court is the parties' Stipulated Protective Order (Docket No. 94), which the Court approved to facilitate discovery in this case. This order reminds counsel that there is a presumption of public access to judicial files and records. A party seeking to file a confidential document under seal must file a motion to seal and must comply with the Ninth Circuit's directives in *Kamakana v. City and County of Honolulu*, 447 F.3d 1172 (9th Cir. 2006).

The Court has adopted electronic filing procedures, and with a few exceptions not applicable here, the Clerk of the Court no longer maintains paper records. Special Order 109 requires the Clerk of the Court to maintain the official files for all cases filed on or after November 7, 2005, in electronic form. The electronic record constitutes the official record of the court. Attorneys must file documents under seal using the Court's electronic filing procedures. *See* Local Rule 10-5(b). That rule provides:

Unless otherwise permitted by statute, rule or prior Court order, papers filed with the Court under seal shall be accompanied by a motion for leave to file those documents under seal, and shall be filed in accordance with the Court's

1 electronic filing procedures. If papers are filed under seal pursuant to prior  
2 Court order, the papers shall bear the following notation on the first page,  
3 directly under the case number: "FILED UNDER SEAL PURSUANT TO  
4 COURT ORDER DATED \_\_\_\_." All papers filed under seal will  
remain sealed until such time as the Court may deny the motion to seal or  
enter an order to unseal them, or the documents are unsealed pursuant to  
Local Rule.

5 *Id.* Documents filed under seal are not accessible to the public.

6 The Court has approved the blanket protective order to facilitate discovery exchanges. But  
7 there has been no showing, and the Court has not found, that any specific documents are secret or  
8 confidential. The parties have not provided specific facts supported by declarations or concrete  
9 examples to establish that a protective order is required to protect any specific trade secret or other  
10 confidential information pursuant to Rule 26(c) or that disclosure would cause an identifiable and  
11 significant harm. The Ninth Circuit has held that there is a presumption of public access to judicial  
12 files and records, and that parties seeking to maintain the confidentiality of documents attached to  
13 nondispositive motions must show good cause exists to overcome the presumption of public access.  
14 *See Kamakana* 447 F.3d at 1179. Parties seeking to maintain the secrecy of documents attached to  
15 dispositive motions must show compelling reasons sufficient to overcome the presumption of public  
16 access. *Id.* at 1180.<sup>1</sup>

17 If the sole ground for a motion to seal is that the opposing party (or non-party) has designated  
18 a document as subject to protection pursuant to the stipulated protective order, the movant must  
19 notify the opposing party (or non-party) at least seven days prior to filing the designated document.  
20 The designating party must then make a good faith determination if the relevant standard for sealing  
21 is met. To the extent the designating party does not believe the relevant standard for sealing can be  
22 met, it shall indicate that the document may be filed publicly no later than four days after receiving  
23 notice of the intended filing. To the extent the designating party believes the relevant standard for  
24 sealing can be met, it shall provide a declaration supporting that assertion no later than four days  
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26 <sup>1</sup> Additional information regarding the requirements for filing under seal can be found at *The*  
27 *Vaccine Center LLC v. GlaxoSmithKline LLC*, 2013 U.S. Dist. Lexis 68298 (D. Nev. May 14, 2013)  
28 (discussing, *inter alia*, the standards for sealing, standard for redaction rather than sealing entire  
documents, and impact of the stipulated protective order on a motion to seal).

1 after receiving notice of the intended filing. The filing party shall then attach that declaration to its  
2 motion to seal the designated material. If the designating party fails to provide such a declaration in  
3 support of the motion to seal, the filing party shall file a motion to seal so indicating and the Court  
4 may order the document filed in the public record.<sup>2</sup>

5 **IT IS ORDERED** that counsel shall comply with the requirements of Local Rule 10-5(b),  
6 the Ninth Circuit's decision in *Kamakana*, 447 F.3d 1172, and the procedures outlined above, with  
7 respect to any documents filed under seal. To the extent any aspect of the stipulated protective order  
8 may conflict with this order or Local Rule 10-5(b), that aspect of the stipulated protective order is  
9 hereby superseded with this order.

10 DATED: May 6, 2015

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13 NANCY J. KOPPE  
14 United States Magistrate Judge  
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26 <sup>2</sup> In the event of an emergency motion, the above procedures shall not apply. Instead, the  
27 movant shall file a motion to seal and the designating party shall file a declaration in support of that  
28 motion to seal within three days of its filing. If the designating party fails to timely file such a  
declaration, the Court may order the document filed in the public record.